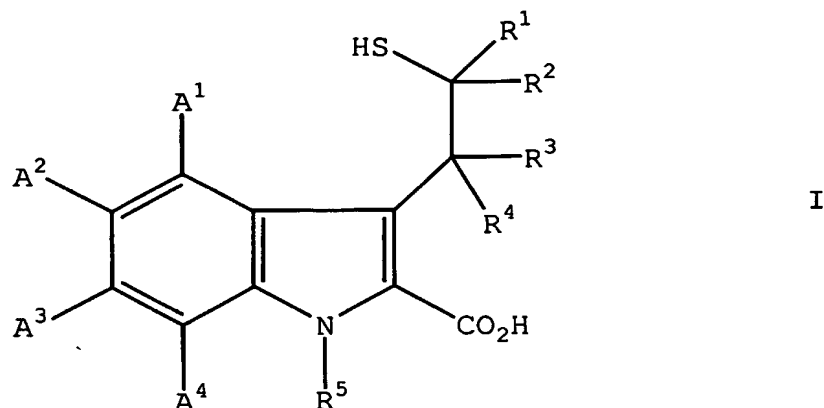


WE CLAIM:

1. A compound of formula I



5 or a pharmaceutically acceptable equivalent of said compound, wherein:

A¹, A², A³ and A⁴ are independently hydrogen, C₁-C₉ alkyl, C₂-C₉ alkenyl, C₂-C₉ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, carbocycle, heterocycle, C₁-C₉ alkoxy, C₂-C₉ alkenyloxy, phenoxy, benzyloxy, hydroxy, halo, nitro, cyano, isocyano, -COOR⁶, -COR⁶, -NR⁶R⁷, -SR⁶, -SOR⁶, -SO₂R⁶, -SO₂(OR⁶), -(C=O)NR⁶R⁷, - (C=O)NR⁶(CH₂)_nCOOH, -NR⁶(C=O)R⁷ or -(CH₂)_nCOOH, or any adjacent two of A¹, A², A³ and A⁴ form with the benzene ring a fused ring that is saturated or unsaturated, aromatic or non- aromatic, and carbocyclic or heterocyclic, said heterocyclic ring containing 1 or 2 oxygen, nitrogen and/or sulfur heteroatom(s);

n is 1-3;

R, R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷ are independently hydrogen, carboxy, C₁-C₉ alkyl, C₂-C₉ alkenyl, C₂-C₉ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, carbocycle or heterocycle; and

said alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, carbocycle, heterocycle, alkoxy, alkenyloxy, phenoxy, benzyloxy and fused ring are independently unsubstituted or substituted with one or more substituent(s).

2. The compound of claim 1, wherein:

10 A¹, A², A³ and A⁴ are independently hydrogen or -COOH;

R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ are each hydrogen; and

R⁵ is hydrogen, phenyl, benzyl or phenylethyl, wherein said phenyl, benzyl and phenylethyl are independently unsubstituted or substituted with one or more substituent(s).

15

3. The compound of claim 2, wherein R⁵ is benzyl substituted with one or more substituent(s) independently selected from the group consisting of carboxy, halo, C₁-C₄ alkyl and C₁-C₄ alkoxy.

20

4. The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2,7-dicarboxylic acid;

1-[(3-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[(2-bromo-5-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

5 1-[(4-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1-(phenylmethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

10 1-[(2-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[[3-carboxy-5-(1,1-dimethylethyl)phenyl]methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[(4-bromo-3-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

15 1-[(2-carboxy-5-methoxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1-phenyl-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

20 3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1-(2-phenylethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-(3-carboxyphenyl)-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[3-carboxy-5-(1,1-dimethylethyl)phenyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid; and

25 pharmaceutically acceptable equivalents.

5. The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound is an enantiomer or an enantiomer-enriched mixture.

5 6. A method for inhibiting NAALADase enzyme activity in a mammal in need thereof, comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said the compound of
10 claim 1 is selected from the group consisting of:

3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2,7-dicarboxylic acid;

1-[(3-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-
indole-2-carboxylic acid;

15 1-[(2-bromo-5-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-
1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[(4-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-
indole-2-carboxylic acid;

20 3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1-(phenylmethyl)-1H-indole-2-
carboxylic acid;

1-[(2-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-
indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[[3-carboxy-5-(1,1-dimethylethyl)phenyl]methyl]-3-(2-
mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[(4-bromo-3-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-
1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[(2-carboxy-5-methoxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-
mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

5 3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1-phenyl-1H-indole-2-carboxylic
acid;

3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1-(2-phenylethyl)-1H-indole-2-
carboxylic acid;

10 1-(3-carboxyphenyl)-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-
carboxylic acid;

1-[3-carboxy-5-(1,1-dimethylethyl)phenyl]-3-(2-
mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid; and

pharmaceutically acceptable equivalents.

15 8. A method for treating a glutamate abnormality in a
mammal in need thereof, comprising administering to said
mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

9. A method of claim 8, wherein the glutamate
20 abnormality is selected from the group consisting of
compulsive disorder, spinal cord injury, epilepsy, stroke,
ischemia, demyelinating disease, Alzheimer's disease,
Parkinson's disease, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis ("ALS"),
Huntington's disease, schizophrenia, pain, peripheral
25 neuropathy, traumatic brain injury, neuronal insult,

inflammatory disease, anxiety, anxiety disorder, memory impairment, glaucoma and retinal disorder.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the retinal disorder
5 is retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration.

11. The method of claim 8 wherein the glutamate abnormality is compulsive disorder.

10 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the compulsive disorder is selected from the group consisting of drug dependence and eating disorder.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the drug
15 dependence is alcohol dependence, nicotine dependence or cocaine dependence.

14. The method of claim 8, wherein said the compound of claim 1 is selected from the group consisting of:

20 3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;
3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2,7-dicarboxylic acid;
1-[(3-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[(2-bromo-5-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-
25 1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[(4-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1-(phenylmethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

5 1-[(2-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[[3-carboxy-5-(1,1-dimethylethyl)phenyl]methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

10 1-[(4-bromo-3-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[(2-carboxy-5-methoxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1-phenyl-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

15 3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1-(2-phenylethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-(3-carboxyphenyl)-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

20 1-[3-carboxy-5-(1,1-dimethylethyl)phenyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid; and

pharmaceutically acceptable equivalents.

15. A method for effecting a neuronal activity in a mammal in need thereof, comprising administering to said
25 mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the neuronal activity is selected from the group consisting of stimulation of damaged neurons, promotion of neuronal
5 regeneration, prevention of neurodegeneration and treatment of a neurological disorder.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the neurological disorder is selected from the group consisting of trigeminal
10 neuralgia, glossopharyngeal neuralgia, Bell's Palsy, myasthenia gravis, muscular dystrophy, progressive muscular atrophy, progressive bulbar inherited muscular atrophy, herniated, ruptured or prolapsed invertebrate disk syndromes, cervical spondylosis, plexus disorders, thoracic
15 outlet and destruction syndromes.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein the neurological disorder is selected from the group consisting of neuropathy, pain, traumatic brain injury, physical damage to
20 spinal cord, stroke associated with brain damage, demyelinating disease and neurological disorder relating to neurodegeneration.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein said neuropathy is
25 peripheral neuropathy or diabetic neuropathy.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein said pain is neuropathic pain.

5 21. The method of claim 20, wherein said compound is administered in combination with an effective amount of morphine.

22. The method of claim 18, wherein the neurological
10 disorder relating to neurodegeneration is Alzheimer's disease.

23. The method of claim 18, wherein the neurological
disorder relating to neurodegeneration is Parkinson's
15 disease.

24. The method of claim 18, wherein the neurological
disorder relating to neurodegeneration is Huntington's
disease.

20

25. The method of claim 18, wherein the neurological disorder relating to neurodegeneration is ALS.

26. The method of claim 15, wherein said the compound
25 of claim 1 is selected from the group consisting of:

3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2,7-dicarboxylic acid;

1-[(3-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

5 1-[(2-bromo-5-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[(4-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

10 3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1-(phenylmethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[(2-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[[3-carboxy-5-(1,1-dimethylethyl)phenyl]methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

15 1-[(4-bromo-3-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[(2-carboxy-5-methoxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

20 3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1-phenyl-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1-(2-phenylethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-(3-carboxyphenyl)-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[3-carboxy-5-(1,1-dimethylethyl)phenyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid; and pharmaceutically acceptable equivalents.

5 27. A method for treating a prostate disease in a mammal is need thereof, comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

10 28. The method of claim 27, wherein the prostate disease is prostate cancer.

29. The method of claim 27, wherein said the compound of claim 1 is selected from the group consisting of:

3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

15 3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2,7-dicarboxylic acid;

1-[(3-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[(2-bromo-5-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

20 1-[(4-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1-(phenylmethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

25 1-[(2-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[[3-carboxy-5-(1,1-dimethylethyl)phenyl]methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[(4-bromo-3-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

5 1-[(2-carboxy-5-methoxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1-phenyl-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

10 3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1-(2-phenylethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-(3-carboxyphenyl)-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[3-carboxy-5-(1,1-dimethylethyl)phenyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid; and

15 pharmaceutically acceptable equivalents.

30. A method for treating cancer in a mammal in need thereof, comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

20

31. The method of claim 30, wherein said cancer is of the brain, kidney or testis.

32. The method of claim 30, wherein said the compound
25 of claim 1 is selected from the group consisting of:

3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2,7-dicarboxylic acid;

1-[(3-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

5 1-[(2-bromo-5-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[(4-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

10 3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1-(phenylmethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[(2-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[[3-carboxy-5-(1,1-dimethylethyl)phenyl]methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

15 1-[(4-bromo-3-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[(2-carboxy-5-methoxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

20 3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1-phenyl-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1-(2-phenylethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-(3-carboxyphenyl)-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[3-carboxy-5-(1,1-dimethylethyl)phenyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid; and
pharmaceutically acceptable equivalents.

5 33. A method for inhibiting angiogenesis in a mammal in need thereof comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

 34. The method of claim 33, wherein said the compound
10 of claim 1 is selected from the group consisting of:

3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2,7-dicarboxylic acid;

1-[(3-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

15 1-[(2-bromo-5-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[(4-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

20 3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1-(phenylmethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[(2-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[[3-carboxy-5-(1,1-dimethylethyl)phenyl]methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[(4-bromo-3-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-
1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[(2-carboxy-5-methoxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-
mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

5 3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1-phenyl-1H-indole-2-carboxylic
acid;

3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1-(2-phenylethyl)-1H-indole-2-
carboxylic acid;

1- (3-carboxyphenyl)-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-
10 carboxylic acid;

1-[3-carboxy-5-(1,1-dimethylethyl)phenyl]-3-(2-
mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid; and

pharmaceutically acceptable equivalents.

15 35. A method for effecting a TGF- β activity in a mammal
in need thereof, comprising administering to said mammal an
effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein said effecting a
20 TGF- β activity is increasing, reducing or regulating TGF- β
levels, or treating a TGF- β abnormality.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein said effecting a
TGF- β activity is treating a TGF- β abnormality, and said TGF- β
25 abnormality is neurodegenerative disorder, extra-cellular

matrix formation disorder, cell-growth related disease,
infectious disease, immune related disease, epithelial
tissue scarring, collagen vascular disease,
fibroproliferative disorder, connective tissue disorder,
5 inflammation, inflammatory disease, respiratory distress
syndrome, infertility or diabetes.

38. The method of claim 35, wherein said the compound
of claim 1 is selected from the group consisting of:

- 10 3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;
3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2,7-dicarboxylic acid;
1-[(3-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-
indole-2-carboxylic acid;
1-[(2-bromo-5-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-
15 1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;
1-[(4-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-
indole-2-carboxylic acid;
3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1-(phenylmethyl)-1H-indole-2-
carboxylic acid;
20 1-[(2-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-
indole-2-carboxylic acid;
1-[[3-carboxy-5-(1,1-dimethylethyl)phenyl]methyl]-3-(2-
mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;
1-[(4-bromo-3-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-
25 1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[(2-carboxy-5-methoxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1-phenyl-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

5 3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1-(2-phenylethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-(3-carboxyphenyl)-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

10 1-[3-carboxy-5-(1,1-dimethylethyl)phenyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid; and
pharmaceutically acceptable equivalents.

39. A method for detecting a disease, disorder or condition where NAALADase levels are altered, comprising:

15 (i) contacting a sample of bodily tissue or fluid with an effective amount of a compound of claim 1, wherein said compound binds to any NAALADase in said sample; and

(ii) measuring the amount of any NAALADase bound to said sample, wherein the amount of NAALADase is diagnostic
20 for said disease, disorder or condition.

40. The method of claim 39, wherein said the compound of claim 1 is selected from the group consisting of:

3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

25 3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2,7-dicarboxylic acid;

1-[(3-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[(2-bromo-5-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

5 1-[(4-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1-(phenylmethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

10 1-[(2-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[[3-carboxy-5-(1,1-dimethylethyl)phenyl]methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[(4-bromo-3-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

15 1-[(2-carboxy-5-methoxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1-phenyl-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

20 3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1-(2-phenylethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-(3-carboxyphenyl)-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[3-carboxy-5-(1,1-dimethylethyl)phenyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid; and

25 pharmaceutically acceptable equivalents.

41. A method for detecting a disease, disorder or condition where NAALADase levels are altered in a mammal, comprising:

- 5 (i) labeling a compound of claim 1 with an effective amount of an imaging reagent;
- (ii) administering to said mammal an effective amount of the labeled compound;
- (iii) allowing said labeled compound to localize and
10 bind to NAALADase present in said mammal; and
- (iv) measuring the amount of NAALADase bound to said labeled compound, wherein the amount of NAALADase is diagnostic for said disease, disorder or condition.

15 42. The method of claim 41, wherein said the compound of claim 1 is selected from the group consisting of:

- 3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;
- 3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2,7-dicarboxylic acid;
- 1-[(3-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-
20 indole-2-carboxylic acid;
- 1-[(2-bromo-5-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-
1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;
- 1-[(4-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-
indole-2-carboxylic acid;

3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1-(phenylmethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[(2-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

5 1-[[3-carboxy-5-(1,1-dimethylethyl)phenyl]methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[(4-bromo-3-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

10 1-[(2-carboxy-5-methoxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1-phenyl-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1-(2-phenylethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

15 1-(3-carboxyphenyl)-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[3-carboxy-5-(1,1-dimethylethyl)phenyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid; and

pharmaceutically acceptable equivalents.

20

43. A diagnostic kit for detecting a disease, disorder or condition where NAALADase levels are altered, comprising a compound of claim 1 labeled with a marker.

44. The diagnostic kit of claim 43, wherein said the compound of claim 1 is selected from the group consisting of:

3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2,7-dicarboxylic acid;

5 1-[(3-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[(2-bromo-5-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

10 1-[(4-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1-(phenylmethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[(2-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

15 1-[[3-carboxy-5-(1,1-dimethylethyl)phenyl]methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[(4-bromo-3-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

20 1-[(2-carboxy-5-methoxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1-phenyl-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1-(2-phenylethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-(3-carboxyphenyl)-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[3-carboxy-5-(1,1-dimethylethyl)phenyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid; and

5 pharmaceutically acceptable equivalents.

45. A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

- (i) an effective amount of a compound of claim 1; and
- (ii) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10

46. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 45, wherein said the compound of claim 1 is selected from the group consisting of:

3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

15 3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2,7-dicarboxylic acid;

1-[(3-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[(2-bromo-5-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

20 1-[(4-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1-(phenylmethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

25 1-[(2-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[[3-carboxy-5-(1,1-dimethylethyl)phenyl]methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[(4-bromo-3-carboxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

5 1-[(2-carboxy-5-methoxyphenyl)methyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1-phenyl-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

10 3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1-(2-phenylethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-(3-carboxyphenyl)-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;

1-[3-carboxy-5-(1,1-dimethylethyl)phenyl]-3-(2-mercaptoethyl)-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid; and

15 pharmaceutically acceptable equivalents.